Non-availability of cables in Bihar

†1639 SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone facility is not being provided to telephone subscribers of Bihar due to non-availability of cables for the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of applicants registered in the waiting list as on date, district-wise and by when, telephone facility would be provided to them; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure immediate availability of landline service of B.S.N.L. at village level in all the districts of Bihar including Madhubani, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Due to limited acceptance of quantity of PIJF cable by bidders of tender in 2002-03 and delay in finalisation of cable tender for 2003-04 due to litigation, there was limited availability of cable during these years in many Circles. After finalisation of cable tender 2003-04 sufficient cable was allotted to Bihar Circle in March 2004, which is being supplied progressively and likely to be completed by October 2004 However, with the available underground cable and wireless networks 1,60,048 and 1,41,613 connections were provided in Bihar Circle during 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) District-wise number of registered applicants as on 31.7.2004 is given in the enclosed Statement; (See below)

Telephone facility to most of these applicants is likely to be provided by March, 2005

(c) Recently, B.S.N.L. has decided to provide landline connections to applicants in rural area up to a distance of 5 KM from the telephone exchange. In Bihar Telecom circle, VPTs (Village Public Telephones) have been provided in all the 38,475 inhabited villages. It includes 1029 VPTs in Madhubani district. Further, the landline services shall be extended to

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

the villages where sufficient waiting list exists and the village falls within 5 Kms radius of existing telephone exchanges. Other villages shall be covered on WLL. The waiting list of Madhubani district is 4679 (as on 31 07.2004), which is likely to be cleared by 31.3.2005.

Statement

District-wise waiting list as on 31.07.2004

Sl.No.	Name of Stations	Waiting List
1.	Bhojpur	5968
2.	Buxar	1787
3.	Begusarai	5196
4.	W. Champaran	3249
5.	Bhagalpur	1070
6.	Banka	907
7.	Chapra	6773
8.	Siwan	13240
9.	Gopalganj	4970
10	Darbhanga	5081
11	Madhubani	4679
12	Gaya	2693
13.	Arwal	968
14.	Jehaanabad	2261
15.	Aurangabad	1449
16.	Nawada	1135
17.	Vaishali	3926
18.	Katihar	759
19.	Araria	495
20.	Purnea	671
21.	Khagaria	4509
22.	Kishanganj	600
23.	East Champaran	6434
24.	Munger	1694
25.	Jammul	599
26.	Lakhisarai	758
27.	Sheikhpura	534
28.	Muzaffarpur	8471
29.	Sitamarhi	2833

Sl.No.	Name of Stations	Waiting List
30.	Sheohar	294
31.	Patna	10580
32.	Nalanda	3977
33.	Saharsa	1222
34.	Madhepura	489
35.	Supaul	804
36.	Samastipur	4798
37.	Rohtas	2439
38.	Bhabua	895
	TOTAL:	119207

Telephone Exchange capacity in Karnataka

1640. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a the present capacity of the telephone exchanges in the State of Karnataka, exchange-wise;

(b) the number of phones presently lying out of order in the cities of the State during the last one year, till date; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The present capacity of the telephone exchanges in the cities of Karnataka, exchange-wise is given in the Annexure [See Appendix 202, Annexure No. 6]

(b) There are no phones presently lying out of order in the cities of the State during the last one year till date.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Circulation of counterfeit postal stamps etc.

1641. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: